

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4287

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T KUWAIT 5244

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU, UR

SUBJ: KUWAIT ARMS PURCHASES FROM RUSSIA

1. DURING MOSLEM FEAST OF THE SACRIFICE CALL ON DEPRIME MINISTER JABIR AL-ALI, HE VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION THAT GOK NEGOTIATING WITH SOVIETS FOR PURCHASE OF "MISSILES OF 300 KILOMETER (FROG-7?) AND 70 KILOMETER RANGES". DISPARAGING HIS OWN EXPERTISE IN MILITARY MATTERS, HE PROFESSED NOT KNOW PRECISE TYPES OF MISSILES BEING NEGOTIATED, NUMBERS, ETC., ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED DELIVERIES COULD BE "SOON".

2. SHAIKH JABIR EXPLAINED KUWAIT NEEDED CREDIBLE LONG-RANGE MISSILE DEFENCE AGAINST WELL KNOWN ADVERSARY TO NORTHWARD, AND NEEDED IT SOON. I MENTIONED SOVIET ADVISERS, AND HE SAID HE IMAGINED THERE WOULD BE ONLY A FEW SENT TO KUWAIT. GOK PLANNED USE EGYPTIAN ADVISERS "BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE SAME EQUIPMENT ALREADY".

3. SHAIKH JABIR CLAIMED THAT SUCH PURCHASES IN NO WAY WERE INTENDED TO SUGGEST THAT "WE HAVE STOPPED WANTING TO DEPEND ON THE UNITED STATES" AS KUWAIT'S PRIMARY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PARTNER.

STOLTZFUS

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